

Dehydration Plant Here To Be In Operation By This Fall

The Office Window

"There should be 'no parking from here to the corner' signs, where more of our streets enter provincial highways," said a local resident, whose street is a considerable distance from the one with which we are most familiar. We have been very conscious of the need at our own particular corner for many a day but until we heard a similar complaint from others we hesitated to make comment. This resident remarked that in entering Holland Street a driver's view was often completely obstructed by parked vehicles. Our familiar corner is at Barrie and John, directly into Highway 11, and more often than not large trucks are parked right to the corner, completely obstructing the view toward Holland Street. Prohibited parking for a distance from the corners may save serious accidents . . . With the Dominion Day holiday behind us, local lettuce being cut on the marsh gardens, and haying the order of work on highland farms, we realize that summer is advancing—and how little of it we have had! . . . It may be that "all things come to those who wait," but our marsh gardeners don't do much waiting—they are "doers" and the things they wanted are coming—the latest being the dehydration of vegetables right here in Bradford. How often has The Witness expressed the need of such a plant! The undersized and surplus vegetables need no longer be wasted. The opening of this plant is another story of enterprise among the gardeners. The next step should be a canning factory and when that is accomplished the marsh garden set-up should be pretty complete—production of the finest vegetables in the land; storage space for them; scientific packing and packaging of the fresh vegetables; dehydration of those unsuited to packing; — and then canning of those better suited to such handling. Ten years ago all these accomplishments were visionary . . . And, on the subject, why leave all of this to the gardeners? A live business men's organization (if the men don't organize the women might) should be formed to encourage and support the bringing of new industry to Bradford and in general support Council in looking after the business interests of the town. There are opportunities being passed by every day. Let's get busy and do some planning so that we can take advantage of them. Scarcely a week passes that someone isn't seeking a site for business here. We have none to offer. Space should be made available and then that space should be handled carefully to permit the locating of the most needed businesses.

Another dream of Holland Marsh garden growers is being realized. Bradford is to have a dehydration plant ready for operation in September.

Plans which have been underway for several weeks became a reality on Thursday evening last when the directors of the Holland Marsh Vegetable Growers decided to set up dehydration in their storage plant (the old factory building at the turn before the bridge). Much equipment in the building is well-suited for dehydration purposes and as a result a minimum outlay will prepare for September operation of the plant. Dehydration requires comparatively small space, therefore, for the present at least, the bulk of the building will continue to be used for storage purposes.

The first, and possibly the largest, quantity of vegetables to be dehydrated will be onions. The grading size does not matter for dehydration purposes, therefore the operation will eliminate the waste of perfectly good vegetables which do not meet grading regulations on size. Garlic is a high-land product, the marsh gardens apparently not being particularly adapted to its growth, and its evaporation here will doubtless give an outlet for its production on nearby high-land gardens. Evaporated onions are used in large quantities by meat packing plants for seasoning meats.

The fact that the plant will make use of the smaller vegetables, formerly regarded as culls, will enable the local growers to put up a very superior consumer package.

The plant will be run on a co-operative basis with the present shareholders of the building under the name of Holland Marsh Vegetable Growers' Co-Operative.

An experienced man in the business, C. C. Eidt, an O.A.C. graduate who was in charge of the dehydration of foods for the Dominion Government during the war, has been engaged as general manager. Mr. Eidt has designed most evaporation equipment and comes here at once to make the plant ready for operation. He will make Bradford his home.

The plant manager is J. A. Paterson who, for the past five years, has been with Beardmore's at Oakville. His home is in Toronto but he plans to move here by fall.

When operations begin in September about 15 will be employed, and it is expected that this will be steady occupation.